

Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting Minutes November 15, 2012

Call to order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:10 AM on November 15, 2012 at the Bluegrass Community Action Council Partnership in Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Mike Hammons for Randy Coe, Dr. Steve Davis, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Beth Jurek for Secretary Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Karen Kidwell for Commissioner Terry Holliday, Amy Hood Hooten, Chair Rick Hulefeld, Marybeth Jackson, Lacey McNary, Aubrey Nehring, LaQuandra Nesbitt, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, and June Widman. Staff attending included: Albert Fox, Amanda Riley, Terry Tolan and Elizabeth Whitehouse. The following members were not present: Senator Tom Buford, Rep Tom Burch, Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Tommy Floyd, Secretary Joe Meyer, and Bill Scott.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

On motion of Mike Hammons, second by Beth Jurek, the minutes of the September 2012 meeting were approved.

Parent Guides..... Amy Hood Hooten

The Assessment Work Group is working on the Continuous Assessment Guide revisions in two phases. Phase One was to update the Continuous Assessment Guide (CAG) to incorporate new language, the school readiness definition, the Kindergarten screener and updated general information. Specifically the work group reviewed terminology and also updated the mention of assessment tools. This phase has been completed. The work group is now in Phase Two, which they hope to have completed by Summer 2013. Phase Two includes a review of the actual assessment tools included in the guide. This will require extensive technical analysis of the tools themselves. A second subgroup has worked on an update of the Parent Guides to include approaches to learning, to reflect the current work around school readiness, and to review the mechanics of the guide itself to ensure the document is user-friendly for families. This work has been completed and was presented to the ECAC for approval. On motion of Mike Hammons, second by Beth Jurek, the update to the Parent Guides as proposed by the Assessment Work Group was approved.

Recognition

Chair Rick Hulefeld recognized the retirement of Dr. Steve Davis by opening the floor to comments about his important role and years of service to the early childhood community in Kentucky. Terry Tolan read a letter written by Dr. Kim Townley and Rick Hulefeld read a letter written by Governor Steven L. Beshear. Other Council members that made comments included: Cindy Heine, Nicki Patton Rowe, Beth Jurek, and Marybeth Jackson. Dr. Steve Davis was presented with a plaque of recognition and a beautiful statue, sponsored by Children Inc.

Preview of Screener Data

Bill Buchanan discussed the pilot program of the Brigance Kindergarten Screener. This fall, 109 school districts volunteered to pilot the screener, which included 700 elementary schools and resulted in 33,000 children screened. KDE is still reviewing the data, but some preliminary data is available. In Kentucky, all children arrive ready to Kindergarten, because the only requirement to be ready is a child's age. The preliminary data available show us that some children in

Kentucky are “ready” or “ready with enrichments,” according to the Brigance screener, but these data also show us that we have some work to do. Chair Rick Hulefeld challenged Bill Buchanan and the Assessment Workgroup to assess the pilot program, discuss lessons learned, and make recommendations for universal implementation in 2013. He also recommended that they consider making the time frame for screening later so the teacher and child would have a greater comfort with each other.

Community Engagement

Lacey McNary presented on the Communication Capacity Survey that was sent to Community Early Childhood Councils and other early childhood stakeholders in October. The questions on this survey asked about audience, methods of communication and possible gaps. The overall goal of the Community Engagement Work Group is to “build a network to share the benefits of early childhood investments” by having more organized and coordinated messaging. The long term goal of the work group is to increase resources around early childhood and improve outcomes for children. The Office of Early Childhood will develop 6-12 “ready to send” messages over the next year and send these out to early childhood stakeholders, who can then send out the message to their networks.

Executive Director’s Report

Terry Tolan discussed the importance of the Professor James Heckman luncheon, hosted by the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood and many other partners. Terry thanked all partners involved, especially the staff of her office and that of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Terry reported on the many national conferences that proposals have been submitted to, in an effort to get Kentucky ‘back on the map’ in the national forum in terms of aggressive high quality work that is being done in early childhood arena. These conferences include: ACTE, KSBA, Smart Start and NAECE. Terry also recognized Albert Fox, who will be awarded a national award, titled Champion for Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), at the ACTE conference in Atlanta at the end of November, for his exemplary support for FCS teachers.

This was the last meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council for 2012 and so much progress has been made this year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.